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ABSTRACT

This document explains the recognition of accrediting institutions in the United States by the Secretary of Education. Preliminary information on accreditation in the United States covers the functions of accreditation, the overall accrediting procedure, types of accreditation, and nongovernmental coordinating agencies. A section on national recognition of accrediting agencies and associations by the U.S. Secretary of Education includes information on the Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch and the National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility. The full text of the federal regulations concerning the Secretary's procedures and criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies is included. The Department of Education's list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and associations is also included and provides information on regional institutional accrediting associations, regional institutional accrediting commissions, and national institutional and specialized accrediting bodies, listed by subject area. Usually provided for each listing are the organization's name; dates of initial listing, last review, and next regular review; and contact information. The list of accrediting agencies and associations recognized for their preaccreditation categories is also provided. The recognition process from petition format through final decision and petition for extension of scope is explained. (DB)

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ED 396 661

Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies And Associations

Criteria and Procedures for Listing by the U.S. Secretary of Education and Current List

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FEBRUARY 1992

Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education
Higher Education Management Services

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Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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Accreditation in the United States

The United States has no Federal ministry of education or other centralized authority exercising single national control over educational institutions in this country. The States assume varying degrees of control over education, but, in general, institutions of postsecondary education are permitted to operate with considerable independence and autonomy. As a consequence, American educational institutions can vary widely in the character and quality of their programs.

In order to insure a basic level of quality, the practice of accreditation arose in the United States as a means of conducting nongovernmental, peer evaluation of educational institutions and programs. Private educational associations of regional or national scope have adopted criteria reflecting the qualities of a sound educational program and have developed procedures for evaluating institutions or programs to determine whether or not they are operating at basic levels of quality.

Functions of Accreditation

1. Certifying that an institution has met established standards;
2. Assisting prospective students in identifying acceptable institutions;
3. Assisting institutions in determining the acceptability of transfer credits;
4. Helping to identify institutions and programs for the investment of public and private funds;
5. Protecting an institution against harmful internal and external pressure;
6. Creating goals for self-improvement of weaker programs and stimulating a general raising of standards among educational institutions;
7. Involving the faculty and staff comprehensively in institutional evaluation and planning;
8. Establishing criteria for professional certification, licensure, and for upgrading courses offering such preparation; and
9. Providing one of several considerations used as a basis for determining eligibility for Federal assistance.

The Accrediting Procedure

1. Standards: The accrediting agency, in collaboration with educational institutions, establishes standards.
2. Self-study: The institution or program seeking accreditation prepares a self-evaluation study that measures its performance against the standards established by the accrediting agency.
3. On-site Evaluation: A team selected by the accrediting agency visits the institution or program to determine firsthand if the applicant meets the established standards.
4. Publication: Upon being satisfied that the applicant meets its standards, the accrediting agency lists the institution or program in an official publication with other similarly accredited institutions or programs.
5. Reevaluation: The accrediting agency periodically reevaluates the institutions or programs that it lists to ascertain that continuation of the accredited status is warranted.

Types of Accreditation

There are two basic types of educational accreditation, one identified as "institutional" and one referred to as "specialized" or "programmatic."

Institutional accreditation normally applies to an entire institution, indicating that each of its parts is contributing to the achievement of an institution's objectives, although not necessarily all on the same level of quality. The various commissions of the regional accrediting associations, for example, perform institutional accreditation, as do some national accrediting agencies.

Specialized accreditation normally applies to evaluation of programs, departments or schools which usually are parts of a total collegiate or other postsecondary institution. The unit accredited may be as large as a college or school within a university or as small as a curriculum within a discipline. Most of the specialized accrediting agencies review units within a postsecondary institution which is accredited by one of the regional accrediting commissions. However, certain of the specialized accrediting agencies do accredit professional schools and other specialized or vocational or other postsecondary institutions which are free-standing in their operations. Thus, a "specialized" or "programmatic" accrediting agency may also function in the capacity of an "institutional" accrediting agency. In addition, a number of specialized accrediting agencies accredit educational programs within non-educational settings, such as hospitals.

Accreditation does not provide automatic acceptance by an institution of credit earned in another institution, nor does it give assurance of acceptance of graduates by employers. Acceptance of students or graduates is always the prerogative of the receiving institution or employer. For these reasons, besides ascertaining the accredited status of a school or program, students should take additional measures to determine, prior to enrollment, whether or not their educational goals will be met through attendance at a particular institution. These measures should include inquiries to institutions to which transfer might be desired or to prospective employers, and personal inspection of the institution in which enrollment is contemplated.

Nongovernmental Coordinating Agencies

The Council on Postsecondary Accreditation, in January 1975, assumed the functions of the Federation of Regional Accrediting Commissions of Higher Education and the National Commission on Accrediting. It is a nongovernmental organization intended to foster and facilitate the role of accrediting agencies in promoting and ensuring the quality and diversity of American postsecondary education. The Council recognizes, coordinates, and periodically reviews the work of its member accrediting agencies, determines the appropriateness of existing or proposed accrediting activities, and performs other related functions.

The Council of Regional School Accrediting Commissions serves as the coordinating agency for the seven commissions on secondary education of the regional associations. Its general purpose is to provide an organization through which the regional commissions for secondary schools can unite and communicate to advance the cause of voluntary institution-based evaluation and accreditation for public and nonpublic schools and for a diversity of other types of secondary schools.

National Recognition Of Accrediting Agencies and Associations By the U.S. Secretary of Education

The U.S. Secretary of Education is required by statute to publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and associations which the Secretary determines to be reliable authorities as to the quality of training offered by educational institutions and programs.

Most institutions attain eligibility for Federal funds by holding accredited or preaccredited status with one of the accrediting bodies recognized by the Secretary of Education, in addition to fulfilling other eligibility requirements.

In some legislation, provision is made for special qualifying steps that may be taken as alternatives to the normal accreditation process.

The commissions of the regional associations and the national accrediting agencies which are recognized by the Secretary have no legal control over educational institutions or programs. They promulgate standards of quality or criteria of institutional excellence and approve or admit to membership those institutions that meet the standards or criteria.

The Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch

The Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch is established to deal with accreditation matters. Located in the Higher Education Management Services Directorate of the Office of Postsecondary Education, the Branch has the following major functions:

1. Continuous review of procedures, policies, and issues in the area of the Department of Education's interests and responsibilities relative to accreditation;
2. Administration of the process whereby accrediting associations secure initial and renewed recognition by the Secretary of Education;
3. Liaison with accrediting associations;
4. Consultative services to institutions, associations, other Federal agencies, and Congress regarding accreditation;
5. Interpretation and dissemination of policy relative to accreditation issues in the case of all appropriate programs administered by the Department of Education;
6. Conduct and stimulation of appropriate research; and
7. Support for the Secretary's National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility.

The National Advisory Committee On Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility

The National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility was established under the Education Amendments of 1980 (P.L. 96-374). It is composed of 15 persons appointed to three-year terms by the Secretary of Education from various segments of the secondary and postsecondary education community, the student/youth population, State departments of education, professional associations, and the general public.

Functions

The National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility advises the Secretary of Education, or designee, and the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

The Committee shall, with respect to all matters pertaining to institutional eligibility:

1. advise the Secretary with regard to the responsibility to publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and associations which the Secretary determines to be reliable authorities as to the quality of training offered, including advising the Secretary with respect to the criteria and procedures for carrying out such responsibility;

2. advise the Secretary with regard to the responsibility to designate State agencies as reliable authorities on the quality of public postsecondary vocational education or training and on the quality of nursing education;

3. develop and recommend to the Secretary standards and criteria for specific categories of vocational training institutions and institutions of higher education for which there are no recognized accrediting agencies, associations, or State agencies, in order to establish the eligibility of such institutions on an interim basis for participation in federally funded programs; and

4. carry out such other advisory functions relating to accreditation and institutional eligibility as may be assigned by the Secretary.

Part 602 — Secretary's Procedures And Criteria For Recognition Of Accrediting Agencies

The criteria and procedures for recognizing accrediting bodies were published in Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations on July 1, 1988 as follows:

Subpart A — General Provisions

Sec.

602.1 Purpose.
602.2 Definitions.
602.3 Recognition procedures.
602.4 Participation of National Advisory Committee.
602.5 Publication of list of recognized agencies.

Subpart B — Criteria for Secretarial Recognition

602.10 Criteria for recognition.
602.11 Experience.
602.12 Scope of activity.
602.13 Clarity of purpose, scope, and operational information.
602.14 National recognition.
602.15 Resources.
602.16 Integrity of process.
602.17 Focus on educational effectiveness.
602.18 Regard for adequate and accurate public disclosure
602.19 Regard for decisions of States and other accrediting agencies.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058, 1061, 1085, 1088, 1141, 1401, 2471, and 3381, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A — General Provisions

§ 602.1 Purpose.

(a) This part establishes procedures and criteria for the Secretary's recognition of accrediting agencies. Recognition is based on the Secretary's determination that accrediting agencies are reliable authorities concerning the quality of education or training offered by the postsecondary educational institutions or programs within the agencies' respective scopes of operation.

(b) Accreditation of postsecondary institutions or postsecondary programs by agencies recognized by the Secretary is a prerequisite to eligibility for many types of Federal financial assistance for those institutions or programs and for the students enrolled in those institutions or programs.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

§ 602.2 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to terms used in this part:

(a) *Definitions in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations.* The following terms used in this part are defined in 34 CFR 77.1:

Department
Secretary

(b) *Definitions that apply to this part.* The following definitions also apply to this part:

"Accrediting" and "accreditation" refer to the status of public recognition which an agency grants to an educational institution or program which meets the agency's established qualifications and educational standards.

"Accrediting agency" and "agency" mean a legal entity, including an association, council, commission, or corporation, or a part of that entity, which conducts accrediting activities.

"Act" means the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

"Educational program" or "program" means a legally authorized program of instruction or study, offered by an educational institution or other organization, that leads to an academic or professional degree, vocational certificate, or other recognized educational credential.

"Preaccreditation" means an agency's formal grant of status to an educational institution or program that signifies that the agency has determined that the institution or program is progressing towards accreditation within a reasonable period of time.

"Recognized agency" means an accrediting agency currently recognized by the Secretary under this part.

"State" means a State of the Union, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

§ 602.3 Recognition procedures.

(a) An accrediting agency that desires to be recognized by the Secretary under this part shall apply in writing to the United States Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, Washington, D.C. 20202.

(b) For initial recognition and for renewal of recognition, the accrediting agency will furnish information establishing its compliance with the criteria set forth in Subpart B by the submission of written materials and by affording the Secretary access to the agency's accreditation site visits and proceedings.

(c) To the extent that the documentation submitted by an agency under paragraph (b) of this section does not demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the agency meets one or more of the criteria in Subpart B, an agency nonetheless wishing to be recognized shall, at the Secretary's request, –

(1) Make its personnel available for interviews; and

(2) Submit additional records and information.

(d) The Secretary does not deny or withdraw recognition of an agency, or limit recognition of an agency to a scope narrower than that requested, without first giving the agency an opportunity to show cause why that action should not be taken.

(e) The Secretary re-evaluates each recognized agency at the Secretary's discretion, but at least once every five years.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

§ 602.4 Participation of National Advisory Committee.

In making determinations under this part, the Secretary considers the recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C 1058 *et al.*, 1145)

§ 602.5 Publication of list of recognized agencies.

The Secretary periodically publishes in the **Federal Register** a list of recognized agencies, including the scope of recognition of each agency.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

Subpart B – Criteria for Secretarial Recognition

§ 602.10 Criteria for recognition.

(a) The Secretary recognizes an accrediting agency only if the Secretary determines that the agency is a reliable authority as to the quality of the education or training offered by postsecondary educational institutions or programs within the agency's scope of activity, taking into account the degrees or certificates offered and the education or specific occupational training offered. In making this determination, the Secretary decides whether the agency possesses the characteristics and follows the procedures described in this subpart.

(b) To be recognized by the Secretary, an agency must satisfactorily meet each of the criteria in § § 602.11 – 602.19 unless it can demonstrate to the Secretary's satisfaction why one or more criteria should not appropriately be applied.

(c) For purposes of the determination in paragraph (b) of this section, each section, taken as a whole, constitutes a criterion.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

§ 602.11 Experience.

An accrediting agency must demonstrate sufficient experience with respect to both –

(a) The geographical scope of activity for which it seeks recognition; and

(b) The specific degrees, certificates, and programs which would be covered by its recognized accreditation and preaccreditation activities.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

§ 602.12 Scope of activity.

The Secretary determines whether an accrediting agency –

(a) (1) Is national in the scope of its operation; or

(2) Includes in its geographical scope of operation at least three States that are contiguous or that otherwise constitute a distinct geographic region, and defines its accrediting activity as the accreditation of entire institutions; and

(b) Accredits types and academic levels of institutions or programs that must be accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Secretary in order for those institutions or programs, or their students, to be eligible for participation in one or more Federal programs.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

§ 602.13 Clarity of purpose, scope, and operational information.

The Secretary determines whether an accrediting agency maintains, and makes publicly available, current written material clearly describing each of the following matters:

(a) Its purposes and objectives.

(b) The geographical area and the types and academic levels of educational institutions or programs covered by the agency's accrediting activity.

(c) The definition of each type of accreditation and preaccreditation status, including probationary status, if any, that the agency grants.

(d) The criteria and procedures used by the agency for determining whether to grant, reaffirm, reinstate, deny, restrict, or revoke each type of accreditation and preaccreditation status that the agency grants.

(e) The standards to which an agency holds an educational institution or program for the purpose of making determinations respecting each of the criteria referred to in paragraph (d) of this section.

(f) The procedures established by the agency for appeal of its denials or withdrawals of accreditation or preaccreditation status.

(g) The procedures followed by the agency for the timely review of complaints pertaining to institutional or program quality, as these relate to the agency's criteria, in a manner that is fair and equitable to the person making the complaint and to the institution or program.

(h) The current accreditation or preaccreditation status publicly conferred on each educational institution or program within the agency's scope of operation, and the date of the next currently scheduled review or

reconsideration of accreditation of each of those institutions or programs.

(i) The names and relevant employment and organizational affiliations of the members of the agency's policy and decision-making bodies responsible for the agency's accrediting activities, and the names of the agency's principal administrative staff.

(j) Provisions for the inclusion of representatives of the public in its policy and decision-making bodies, responsible for its accrediting activities or for the retention of advisors who can provide information about issues of concern to the public.

(k) With regard to institutions or programs of study that admit students on the basis of their ability to benefit from the education or training offered, any criteria established by the agency with respect to nationally recognized, standardized, or industry-developed tests designed to measure the aptitude of prospective students to complete successfully the program to which they have applied.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.* and 1091(d))

§ 602.14 National recognition.

The Secretary determines whether an accrediting agency demonstrates that its policies, evaluation methods and decisions are accepted throughout the United States by, as appropriate –

(a) Educators and educational institutions;

(b) Licensing bodies; practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students; and

(c) Recognized agencies.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

§ 602.15 Resources.

The Secretary determines whether an accrediting agency has, and will be likely to have, sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation function in light of its requested scope of recognition, including –

(a) Administrative staff and financial resources; and

(b) Competent and knowledgeable personnel responsible for on-site evaluation, policy-making, and decisions regarding accreditation and preaccreditation status.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

§ 602.16 Integrity of process.

The Secretary determines whether an accrediting agency adheres to the following practices and procedures in making its determinations concerning accreditation and preaccreditation status:

(a) As an integral part of its accrediting activity, it –

(1) Requires self-analysis by each subject educational institution or program in accordance with guidance provided by the agency; and

(2) Conducts an on-site review of the institution or program, conducts its own independent analyses and evaluations of the data furnished by the institution or program, and provides a written report on the review to the institution or program concerning –

(i) The strengths and weaknesses of the institution or program (both at the main campus and branch campus or off-campus locations), including areas needing improvement; and

(ii) The institution's or program's performance respecting the assessment of student achievement as described in § 602.17.

(b) It re-evaluates at reasonable intervals the institutions or programs to which it has granted accreditation or preaccreditation status.

(c) It bases its decisions regarding the award of accreditation or preaccreditation status upon its published criteria and provides advance public notice of proposed new or revised criteria, providing interested parties adequate opportunity to comment on such proposals prior to their adoption.

(d) With regard to the award of preaccreditation status, it applies criteria and follows procedures that are appropriately related to those used to award accreditation status.

(e) It offers appropriate and fair written procedures for appeals of its denial or withdrawal of accreditation or preaccreditation status. Such written procedures shall be made promptly available to the chief executive official of any institution or program affected by such a change in status.

(f) It maintains a written policy under which it notifies the Secretary within 30 days of any final decision –

(1) To withdraw accreditation or preaccreditation status from an institution or program; or

(2) To place an accredited or preaccredited institution or program on a publicly announced probationary status.

(g) Its organization, functions, and procedures include effective controls against conflicts of interest and against inconsistent application of its criteria and standards.

(h) If the institution or program elects to make public disclosure of its status, it requires that each institution or program to which it has granted accreditation or preaccreditation status disclose that status accurately, including the academic or instructional programs covered by that status.

(i) It maintains a systematic program of review designed to assess the validity and reliability of its criteria, procedures, and standards relating to its accrediting and preaccrediting activity and their relevance to the educational and training needs of affected students.

(j) It maintains complete and accurate records of its last two reviews of each institution or program, and accurate permanent records of its decisions with respect to preaccreditation, accreditation, and adverse actions.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.)*

§ 602.17 Focus on educational effectiveness.

The Secretary determines whether an accrediting agency, in making its accrediting decisions, systematically obtains and considers substantial and accurate information on the educational effectiveness of postsecondary educational institutions or programs, especially as measured by student achievement, by –

(a) Determining whether an educational institution or program maintains clearly specified educational objectives consistent with its mission and appropriate in light of the degrees or certificates it awards;

(b) Verifying that satisfaction of certificate and degree requirements by all students, including students admitted on the basis of ability to benefit, is reasonably documented, and conforms with commonly accepted standards for the particular certificates and degrees involved, and that institutions or programs confer degrees only on those students who have demonstrated educational achievement as assessed and documented through appropriate measures;

(c) Determining that institutions or programs document the educational achievements of their students, including students admitted on the basis of ability to benefit, in verifiable and consistent ways, such as evaluation of senior theses, reviews of student portfolios, general educational assessments (e.g., standardized test results, graduate or professional school test results, or graduate or professional school placements), job placement rates, licensing examination results, employer evaluations, and other recognized measures;

(d) Determining that institutions or programs admitting students on the basis of ability to benefit employ appropriate methods, such as preadmissions testing or evaluations, for determining that such students are in fact capable of benefiting from the training or education offered;

(e) Determining the extent to which institutions or programs broadly and accurately publicize, particularly in representations directed to prospective students, the objectives described in paragraph (a) of this section, the assessment measures described in paragraph (c) of this section, the information obtained through those measures, and the methods described in paragraph (d) of this section; and

(f) Determining the extent to which institutions or programs systematically apply the information obtained through the measures described in paragraph (c) of this section toward steps to foster enhanced student achievement with respect to the degrees or certificates offered by the institution or program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.*)

§ 602.18 Regard for adequate and accurate public disclosure.

The Secretary determines whether an accrediting agency, in making its accrediting decisions, reviews elements of institutional or program integrity as demonstrated by the adequacy and accuracy of disclosures of information that do not mislead the public (and especially prospective students) as to –

(a) The institution's or program's resources, admission policies and standards, academic offerings, policies with respect to satisfactory academic progress, fees and other charges, refund policies, and graduation rates and requirements;

(b) The institution's or program's educational effectiveness as described in § 602.17;

(c) Employment of recent alumni related to the education or training offered, in the case of an institution or program offering training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation, or where the institution or program makes claims about the rate or type of employment of graduates; and

(d) Data supporting any quantitative claims made by the institution with respect to any matters described in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.*)

§ 602.19 Regard for decisions of States and other accrediting agencies.

The Secretary determines whether an accrediting agency, in making its decisions, shows regard for the decisions of States and of other recognized accrediting agencies by conforming with the following practices:

(a) Recognizing only those institutions or programs that are legally authorized under applicable State law to provide a program of education beyond secondary education.

(b) In considering whether to grant initial accreditation or preaccreditation status to an institution or program, taking into account actions by other recognized agencies which have denied accreditation or preaccreditation status to the institution or program, have placed the institution or program on public probationary status, or have revoked the accreditation or preaccreditation status of the institution or program.

(c) If another recognized agency places an institution or the principal program offered by an institution on public probationary status or revokes the accreditation of the institution or principal program within an institution, promptly reviewing the accreditation or preaccreditation status it has previously granted to that institution to determine if there is cause for it to withdraw or otherwise alter that status.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1058 *et al.*)

Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies and Associations

The following regional and national accrediting agencies and associations are recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as reliable authorities concerning the quality of postsecondary education or training offered by educational institutions or programs. The dates included with each entry are: date of initial listing/date of action taken as result of last full-scale review/date of next regular review.

Regional Institutional Accrediting Associations

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
1952/1987/1992
Richard J. Bradley, Executive Director
Sanborn House
15 High Street
Winchester, Massachusetts 01890
Tel.: (617) 729-6762

Regional Institutional Accrediting Commissions

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1952/1991/1996
James T. Rogers, Executive Director
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097
Tel. (800) 248-7701

Commission on Occupational Education Institutions
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1969/1989/1994
Kenneth W. Tidwell, Executive Director
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097
Tel. (800) 248-7701

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington
Commission on Colleges
Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges
1952/1988/1992
Joseph A. Malik, Executive Director
3700-B University Way, NE
Seattle, Washington 98105
Tel. (206) 543-0195

Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
1952/1988/1992
Patricia A. Thrash, Director
159 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Tel. (312) 263-0456

Commission on Schools
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
1974/1987/1992
Kenneth F. Gose, Executive Director
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona 85287-3011
Tel. (800) 525-9517

California, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
Western Association of Schools and Colleges
1952/1988/1992
John C. Petersen, Executive Director
P.O. Box 70
3060 Valencia Avenue, Suite 3
Aptos, California 95003
Tel. (408) 688-7575

Accrediting Commission for Schools
Western Association of Schools and Colleges
1974/1985/1990
Don E. Halverson, Executive Director
1606 Rollins Road
Burlingame, California 90410
Tel. (415) 697-7711

Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities
Western Association of Schools and Colleges
1952/1988/1994
Stephen S. Weiner, Executive Director
c/o Mills College, Box 9990
Oakland, California 94613
Tel. (415) 632-5000

Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
Commission on Higher Education
Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
1952/1986/1992
Howard L. Simmons, Executive Director
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104
Tel. (215) 662-5606

Commission on Secondary Schools
Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
1988/1991/1994
Dr. John Michalcewiz, Executive Director
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104
Tel. (215) 662-5606

National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Bodies

ACUPUNCTURE
First professional master's degree and professional master's level certificate and diploma programs in acupuncture
National Accreditation Commission for Schools and Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
1988/1990/1993
Penelope Ward, Executive Director
1424 16th St., NW, Suite 501
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. (202) 265-3370

ALLIED HEALTH
Private, postsecondary institutions offering allied health education
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
1982/1991/1994
Jeanne Glankler, Administrator
Oak Manor Offices, 29089 U.S. 20 West
Elkhart, Indiana 46514
Tel. (219) 293-0124

Blood bank technologist
Cytotechnologist
Diagnostic medical sonographer
Electroneurodiagnostic technologist
Emergency medical technician-paramedic
Histologic technician/technologist
Medical assistant
Medical laboratory technician (certificate and associate degree)
Medical record administrator and medical record technician
Medical technologist
Nuclear medicine technologist
Occupational therapist
Ophthalmic medical assistant
Perfusionist
Physician assistant (assistant to the primary care physician and surgeon's assistant)
Radiation therapy technologist and radiographer
Respiratory therapist and respiratory therapy technician
Surgical technologist
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
1952/1988/1992
John J. Fauser, Director
515 North State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610
Tel. (312) 464-4660

The Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA) of the American Medical Association is recognized as a coordinating agency for accreditation of education for the allied health occupations listed above. In carrying out its accreditation activities, CAHEA cooperates with the review committees sponsored by various allied health and medical specialty organizations. For information concerning the cooperating review committee and dates relative to Department of Education recognition and next review, refer to the disciplines as listed separately below. Other allied health disciplines accredited by agencies recognized by the Department outside the aegis of CAHEA are also listed below.

ARCHITECTURE
First professional degree programs
National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc.
1952/1991/1996
John Maudlin-Jeronimo, Executive Director
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Tel. (202) 783-2007

ART
Degree-granting schools and departments and non-degree granting schools that are predominantly organized to offer education in art, design, or art/design-related disciplines.
Commission on Accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design
1966/1987/1992
Samuel Hope, Executive Director, NASAD
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21
Reston, Virginia 22090
Tel. (703) 437-0700

BIBLE COLLEGE EDUCATION
Bible colleges and institutes offering undergraduate programs
Commission on Accrediting
American Association of Bible Colleges
1952/1991/1996
Randall E. Bell, Executive Director, AABC
Box 1523
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
Tel. (501) 521-8164

BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED EDUCATION
Specialized schools for the blind and visually handicapped, including organizations providing postsecondary vocational education programs that prepare the blind and visually handicapped for employment
National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped
1971/1991/1992
Ruth Westman, Executive Director
232 Madison Avenue, Suite 907
New York, New York 10016
Tel. (212) 779-8080

BLOOD BANK TECHNOLOGY
Programs for the specialist in blood bank technology
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Committee on Accreditation of Specialist in
Blood Banking Technology Schools
American Association of Blood Banks
1974/1988/1992
Carol Anderson, Director of Transfusion Sciences and Education, AABB
1117 North 19th Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel. (703) 528-8200

BUSINESS
Baccalaureate and master's degree programs in business administration and management, and baccalaureate and master's degree programs in accounting
Accreditation Council
American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business
1952/1988/1992
William K. Laidlaw, Jr., Executive Vice President, AACSB
605 Old Ballas Road, Suite 220
St. Louis, Missouri 63141
Tel. (314) 872-8481

Private, postsecondary schools, junior colleges, and senior colleges that are predominantly organized to educate students for business careers, including master's degree programs in senior colleges of business
Accrediting Commission for Independent Colleges and Schools
Career College Association
1956/1991/1994
James M. Phillips, Executive Director
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Tel. (202) 336-6700

CHIROPRACTIC
Programs leading to the D.C. degree
Commission on Accreditation
The Council on Chiropractic Education
1974/1987/1992
Ralph G. Miller, Executive Vice President, CCE
4401 Westown Parkway, Suite 120
West Des Moines, Iowa, 50265
Tel. (515) 226-9001

Straight chiropractic education
Commission on Accreditation
Straight Chiropractic Academic Standards Association, Inc.
1988/1990
Leroy G. Moore, Executive Director, SCASA
Post Office Box 17357
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29301
Tel. (803) 578-8770

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Christian postsecondary institutions whose missions are characterized by a belief in Biblical inerrancy, Biblical authority, and in the historicity of the first eleven chapters of Genesis that offer certificates, diplomas, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees
Accrediting Commission
Transnational Association of Christian Schools
1991/1993
J. Gordon Henry, Executive Director
2114 Arrow Court
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130
Tel. (615) 890-8384

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION
Basic, advanced, and supervisory clinical pastoral education programs
Accreditation Commission
Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.
1969/1991/1996
Duane Parker, Executive Director, ACPE
1549 Claremont Road, Suite 103
Decatur, Georgia 30033
Tel. (404) 320-1472

Centers/programs, including those that offer clinical pastoral education, that award certificates, baccalaureate and master's degrees for training for specialized ministries in the Catholic Church
Commission on Certification and Accreditation
United States Catholic Conference
1987/1991/1994
Sr. Kay Sheskaitis, Executive Director, USCC
4455 Woodson Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63134-0889
Tel. (314) 427-2500

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Baccalaureate programs in computer science
Computer Sciences Accreditation Commission
Computing Sciences Accreditation Board, Inc.
1988/1991/1996
Patrick M. La Malva, Executive Director, CSAB
345 East 47th Street
New York, New York 10017
Tel. (212) 705-7314

CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION
Baccalaureate degree programs
American Council for Construction Education
1988/1991/1996
Daniel Dupree, Executive Vice-President
901 Hudson Lane
Monroe, Louisiana 71201
Tel. (318) 323-2413

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Non-collegiate continuing education institutions and programs
Accrediting Commission
Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training
1978/1991/1992
Roger Williams, President, ACCET
Main Street Center
600 East Main Street, Suite 1425
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Tel. (804) 648-6742

COSMETOLOGY
Postsecondary schools and departments of cosmetology arts and sciences
National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences
1970/1987/1992
Mark Gross, Chief Executive Officer
901 North Stuart Street, Suite 900
Arlington, Virginia 22203
Tel. (703) 527-7600

CULINARY ARTS
Postsecondary programs in culinary arts and foodservice management which award certificates, diplomas or associate degrees
Accrediting Commission
American Culinary Federation Educational Institute
1990/1993
Mary G. Petersen, Executive Director
959 Melvin Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21403
Tel. (301) 268-5959

CYTOTECHNOLOGY
Programs for the cytotechnologist
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee
American Society of Cytology
1974/1988/1992
Shirley Indictor, Secretary
1015 Chestnut Street, Suite 1518
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
Tel. (215) 922-3880

DANCE
Institutions and units within institutions offering degree-granting and non-degree-granting programs in dance and dance-related disciplines
Commission on Accreditation
National Association of Schools of Dance
1983/1991/1996
Samuel Hope, Executive Director, NASD
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21
Reston, Virginia 22090
Tel. (703) 437-0700

DENTAL AND DENTAL AUXILIARY PROGRAMS
Programs leading to the DDS or DMD degree, advanced general dentistry and speciality programs, general practice residency programs and programs in dental hygiene, dental assisting and dental technology
Commission on Dental Accreditation
American Dental Association
1952/1989/1994
Mario Santangelo, Secretary
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Tel. (312) 440-2500

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY
Programs for the diagnostic medical sonographer
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)

In cooperation with the
Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, which is sponsored by the American College of Radiology, American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, American Society of Echocardiography, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine
1983/1991/1992
Marilyn Fay, Executive Director
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2901
Tel. (312) 704-5151

DIETETICS
Coordinated undergraduate programs in dietetics and post-baccalaureate dietetic internships
Division of Education Accreditation/Approval
The American Dietetic Association
1974/1991/1996
Beverly Mitchell, Administrator
Department of Education, ADA
216 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995
Tel. (312) 899-0040

ELECTRONEURODIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGY
Programs for the electroneurodiagnostic technologist
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Joint Review Committee on Education in Electroneurodiagnostic Technology, which is sponsored by the American Electroencephalographic Association and the American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists
1983/1991/1992
Patricia Smith, Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 11434
Norfolk, Virginia 23517
Tel. (804) 627-6791

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Programs for the emergency medical technician-paramedic
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs for the EMT-Paramedic, which is sponsored by the American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Society of Anesthesiologists, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
1983/1988/1992
Philip A. von der Heydt, Executive Secretary
1701 West Euless Boulevard, Suite 200
Euless, Texas 76040
Tel. (817) 283-2835

ENGINEERING
Basic (baccalaureate) and advanced (master's) level programs in engineering, associate and baccalaureate degree programs in engineering technology, and engineering-related programs at the baccalaureate level
Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc.
1952/1987/1992
David R. Reyes-Guerra, Executive Director
345 East 47th Street
New York, New York 10017
Tel. (212) 705-7685

FORESTRY
Programs leading to a bachelor's or higher first professional degree
Society of American Foresters
1952/1989/1992
P. Gregory Smith, Associate Director
Educational and Professional Standards
5400 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
Tel. (301) 897-8720

FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION
Independent schools and collegiate departments
Committee on Accreditation
American Board of Funeral Service Education
1972/1987/1992
Gordon S. Bigelow, Executive Director, ABFSE
14 Crestwood Road
Cumberland, Maine 04201
Tel. (207) 829-5715

HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Graduate programs in health services administration
Accrediting Commission on Education for Health Services Administration
1970/1989/1994
Sherril B. Gelmon, Executive Secretary
1911 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 503
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel. (703) 524-0511

HISTOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY
Program for the histologic technician/technologist
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)

In cooperation with the
National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, which is sponsored by the American Society for Medical Technology and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists
1974/1988/1992
Jacqueline N. Parochka, Executive Director
8410 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 670
Chicago, Illinois 60631
Tel. (312) 714-8800

HOME STUDY EDUCATION
Home study schools (including associate, baccalaureate, or master's degree-granting home study schools)
Accrediting Commission
National Home Study Council
1959/1991/1993
William A. Fowler, Executive Secretary
1601 18th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Tel. (202) 234-5100

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
Baccalaureate degree program
National Association of Industrial Technology
1988/1992
Alvin Rudisill, Executive Director
3157 Packard Road, Suite A
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108-1900
Tel. (313) 677-0702

INTERIOR DESIGN
Two-year pre-professional assistant level programs (certificate and associate degree), first professional degree level programs (master's and baccalaureate degree and three-year certificate) and post-professional master's degree programs
Committee on Accreditation
Foundation for Interior Design Education Research
1976/1989/1992
Kayem Dunn, Executive Director, FIDER
60 Monroe Center, NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Tel. (616) 458-0400

JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS
Units within institutions offering professional undergraduate and graduate (master's) degree programs
Accrediting Committee
Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications
1952/1991/1996
Susanne Shaw, Executive Director, ACEJMC
University of Kansas School of Journalism
Stauffer-Flint Hall
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
Tel. (913) 864-3973

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
Baccalaureate and master's programs leading to the first professional degree
Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board
American Society of Landscape Architects
1971/1987/1992
Karen Niles
Staff Vice President,
Planning and Programs, ASLA
4401 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20008-2302
Tel. (202) 686-2752

LAW
Professional schools
Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
American Bar Association
1952/1987/1992
James P. White
Consultant on Legal Education, ABA
550 West North Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
Tel. (317) 264-8340

LIBRARIANSHIP
Master's programs leading to the first professional degree
Committee on Accreditation
American Library Association
1952/1987/1992
Prudence Dalrymple, Director of Accreditation
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Tel. (312) 944-6780

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
Graduate degree programs and clinical training programs
Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
1978/1991/1993
Robert Stahman, Chairman, Committee on Accreditation
1100 17th Steet, NW, 16th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. (202) 452-0109

MEDICAL ASSISTANT EDUCATION
Private medical assistant schools and programs
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
1974/1991/1994
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)

One- and two-year medical assistant programs
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)

In cooperation with the
Curriculum Review Board
American Association of Medical Assistants' Endowment
1974/1988/1992
Monique M. Buckner, Assistant Director of Accreditation
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1575
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Tel. (312) 899-1500

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION
Schools and programs for the medical laboratory technician
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
1969/1991/1994
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
Associate degree and certificate programs for the medical laboratory technician
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
1974/1988/1992
(See listing under HISTOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY, above)

MEDICAL RECORD EDUCATION
Programs for the medical record administrator and medical record technician
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Council on Education
American Medical Record Association
1952/1988/1992
Carol Petrie Liberty, Director, Academic Division, AMRA
919 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1400
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Tel. (312) 787-2672

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY
Professional programs
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
1952/1988/1992
(See listing under HISTOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY, above)

MEDICINE
Programs leading to the M.D. degree
Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association and the Executive Council of the Association of American Medical Colleges
1952/1991/1996
The LCME is administered in odd-numbered years, beginning each July 1, by:
Harry S. Jonas, Secretary, LCME
American Medical Association
515 North State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610
Tel. (312) 464-4657

The LCME is administered in even-numbered years, beginning each July 1, by:
Donald G. Kassebaum, Secretary, LCME
Association of American Medical Colleges
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. (202) 828-0670

MICROBIOLOGY
Postdoctoral programs in medical and public health laboratory microbiology
Committee on Postdoctoral Educational Programs
American Academy of Microbiology
1979/1987/1992
Peggy McNult, Program Assistant
1325 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. (202) 737-3600

MUSIC
Institutions and units within institutions offering degree-granting and non-degree-granting programs in music and music-related disciplines, including community/junior colleges and independent degree-granting institutions
Commission on Accreditation
Commission on Non-Degree-Granting Accreditation
Commission on Community Junior College Accreditation
National Association of Schools of Music
1952/1987/1992
Samuel Hope, Executive Director, NASM
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21
Reston, Virginia 22090
Tel. (703) 437-0700

NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
Programs leading to the N.D. or N.M.D. degree
Commission on Accreditation
Council on Naturopathic Medical Education
1987/1991/1994
Cecil Baxter, Executive Director, CNME
18726 56th Ave., NE
Seattle, Washington 98155
Tel. (206) 485-2063

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY
Programs for the nuclear medicine technologist
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology, which is sponsored by the American College of Radiology, American Society of Clinical Pathologists, American Society for Medical Technology, American Society of Radiologic Technologists and the Society of Nuclear Medicine
1974/1988/1992
Elaine Cuklanz, Executive Secretary
1144 West 3300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119-3330
Tel. (801) 975-1144

NURSE ANESTHESIA
Generic nurse anesthesia educational programs/schools
Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
1955/1991/1996
Betty J. Horton, Director of Accreditation
216 Higgins Road
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
Tel. (708) 692-7050

Basic certificate and basic master's degree nurse-midwifery educational programs
Division of Accreditation
American College of Nurse-Midwives
1982/1991/1995
Ronald E. Nitzsche, Chief Operating Officer, ACN-M
1522 K Street NW, Suite 1120
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. (202) 289-0171

Programs in practical nursing, and diploma, associate, baccalaureate, and higher degree nurse education programs
Board of Review for Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs
Board of Review for Diploma Programs
Board of Review for Practical Nursing Programs
Board of Review for Associate Degree Programs
National League for Nursing, Inc.
1952/1990/1992
Patricia Moccia, Executive Vice President, NLN
350 Hudson Street
New York, New York 10014
Tel. 1-800-669-1656

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Professional Programs
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Accreditation Committee
American Occupational Therapy Association
1952/1988/1992
Brena G. Manoly, Director, Division of Accreditation, AOTA
1383 Picard Drive, Suite 300
Rockville, Maryland 20849-1725
Tel. (301) 948-9626

OCCUPATIONAL, TRADE AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Private, postsecondary degree and non-degree granting institutions that are predominantly organized to educate students for trade, occupational, or technical careers
Accrediting Commission for Trade and Technical Schools
Career College Association
1967/1991/1994
Dorothy Fenwick, Executive Director
750 First Street, NE, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20002
Tel. (202) 336-6700

OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Programs of six months or longer for the ophthalmic medical assistant
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs for the Ophthalmic Medical Assistant, which is sponsored by the American Association of Certified Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology and the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology
1983/1988/1992
Alice Gelinas, Administrator
2025 Woodlane Drive
St. Paul, Minnesota 55125-2995
Tel. (612) 770-9775

OPTICIANRY
Two-year programs for the ophthalmic dispenser and one-year programs for the ophthalmic laboratory technician
Commission on Opticianry Accreditation
1985/1987/1992
Floyd H. Holmgrain, Jr., Executive Director
10111 Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway, Suite 100
Bowie, Maryland 20720-4299
Tel. (301) 459-8075

OPTOMETRY
Professional degree programs, residency programs, and optometric technician programs
Council on Optometric Education
American Optometric Association
1952/1988/1992
Joyce Urbeck, Manager
243 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63141
Tel. (314) 991-4100

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
Programs leading to the D.O. degree
Bureau of Professional Education
American Osteopathic Association
1952/1989/1994
William Douglas Ward, Director
Office of Education, AOA
142 East Ontario Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Tel. (312) 280-5800

PERFUSION
Programs for the perfusionist
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Accreditation Review Committee for Perfusion Education, which is sponsored by the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion, American Society of Extracorporeal Technology, and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons
1983/1991/1992
Robert Parks, Executive Director
Department of Allied Health and Accreditation
American Medical Association
P.O. Box 11124
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Tel. (312) 751-2570

PHARMACY
Professional degree programs
American Council on Pharmaceutical Education
1952/1988/1994
Daniel A. Nona, Executive Director
311 West Superior
Chicago, Illinois 60610
Tel. (312) 664-3575

PHYSICAL THERAPY
Professional programs for the physical therapist and programs for the physical therapist assistant
Commission on Accreditation in Education
American Physical Therapy Association
1977/1990/1995
Virginia Nieland, Director
Department of Accreditation, APTA
Trans Potomac Plaza
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Tel. (703) 684-2782

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION
Programs for the physician assistant
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Accreditation Review Committee on Education for the Physician Assistant, which is sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American College of Physicians, American College of Surgeons, and the Association for Physicians Assistant Programs
1974/1988/1992
L. M. Detmer, Secretary, ARC-PA
Department of Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
515 North State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610
Tel. (312) 464-4623

PODIATRY
Colleges of podiatric medicine, including first professional and graduate degree programs
Council on Podiatric Medical Education
American Podiatric Medical Association
1952/1988/1992
Jay Levrio, Director
9312 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
Tel. (301) 571-9200

PSYCHOLOGY
Doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, school and combined professional-scientific psychology, and pre-doctoral internship programs in professional psychology
Committee on Accreditation
American Psychological Association
1970/1988/1992
Paul Nelson, Director, Office of Accreditation, APA
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
Tel. (202) 336-5979

PUBLIC HEALTH

Graduate schools of public health and graduate programs offered outside schools of public health in community health education and in community health/preventive medicine

Council on Education for Public Health
1974/1987/1992
Patricia Evans, Executive Director
1015 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. (202) 789-1050

RABBINICAL AND TALMUDIC EDUCATION

Advanced rabbinical and Talmudic schools

Accreditation Commission
Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools
1974/1987/1991
Bernard Fryshman, Executive Director, AARTS
175 Fifth Avenue, Room 711
New York, New York 10010
Tel. (212) 477-0950

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

Programs for the radiographer and radiation therapy technologist

Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, which is sponsored by the American College of Radiology and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists
1957/1988/1992
Marilyn Fay, Executive Director
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2901
Tel. (312) 704-5300

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Programs for the respiratory therapist and respiratory therapy technician

Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education, which is sponsored by the American Association for Respiratory Therapy, American College of Chest Physicians, American Society of Anesthesiologists and the American Thoracic Society
1974/1988/1992
Philip A. von der Heydt, Executive Director
1701 West Euless Boulevard, Suite 200
Euless, Texas 76040
Tel. (817) 283-2835

SOCIAL WORK

Master's and baccalaureate degree programs

Commission on Accreditation
Council on Social Work Education
1952/1987/1992
Nancy Randolph, Director
Division of Standards and Accreditation, CSWE
1600 Duke Street, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Tel. (703) 683-8080

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

Master's degree programs

Educational Standards Board
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
1967/1991/1996
Delores Battle, Chair
Educational Standards Board, ASHA
10801 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852
Tel. (301) 897-5700

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

Programs for the surgical technologist

Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
American Medical Association
(See listing under ALLIED HEALTH, above)
In cooperation with the
Joint Review Committee on Education for the Surgical Technologist, which is sponsored by the American College of Surgeons, American Hospital Association, and the Association of Surgical Technologists
1978/1991/1992
William Teutsch, Secretary-Treasurer
8307 Shaffer Parkway
Littleton, Colorado 80127
Tel. (303) 978-0878

TEACHER EDUCATION

Baccalaureate and graduate programs for the preparation of teachers and other professional personnel for elementary and secondary schools

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
1952/1989/1994
Arthur Wise, President
2010 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. (202) 466-7496

THEATER

Institutions and units within institutions offering degree-granting and/or non-degree-granting programs in theater and theater-related disciplines

Commission on Accreditation

National Association of Schools of Theatre
1982/1991/1996
Samuel Hope, Executive Director, NAST
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21
Reston, Virginia 22090
Tel. (703) 437-0700

THEOLOGY
Freestanding schools, as well as schools affiliated with larger institutions, offering graduate professional education for ministry and graduate study of theology
Commission on Accrediting
Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada
1952/1987/1992
Jim Waits, Executive Director, ATS
10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15275-1102
Tel. (412) 788-6505

VETERINARY MEDICINE
Colleges of veterinary medicine offering programs leading to a professional degree, and two-year collegiate programs for veterinary technicians
Council on Education
American Veterinary Medical Association
1952/1987/1992

Committee on Veterinary Technician Activities and Training
American Veterinary Medical Association
1977/1987/1992
Edward R. Ames, Director, Scientific Activities, AVMA
930 North Meacham Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196
Tel. (312) 885-8070

Other
Registration [accreditation] of collegiate degree-granting programs or curriculums offered by institutions of higher education and of credit-bearing certificate and diploma programs offered by degree-granting institutions of higher education
New York State Board of Regents
1952/1991/1994
Thomas Sobol, Commissioner of Education
State Education Department
The University of the State of New York
Albany, New York 12224
Tel. (518) 457-3300

Accrediting Agencies and Associations Recognized for their Preaccreditation Categories

Under the terms of the Higher Education Act and other Federal legislation providing funding assistance to postsecondary education, an institution or program is eligible to apply for participation in certain Federal programs if, in addition to meeting other statutory requirements, it is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association—or if it is an institution with respect to which the U.S. Secretary of Education has determined that there is satisfactory assurance the institution or program will meet the accreditation standards of such agency or association within a reasonable time. An institution or program may establish satisfactory assurance of accreditation by acquiring preaccreditation status with a nationally recognized agency or association which has been recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education for the award of such status. According to the Criteria for Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies and Associations, if an accrediting agency or association has developed a preaccreditation status, it must demonstrate that it "applies criteria and follows procedures that are appropriately related to those used to award accreditation status."

The following is a list of accrediting agencies and associations recognized for their preaccreditation categories and the categories which are recognized:

Regional Institutional Accrediting Association

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES: *Candidate for Accreditation*

Regional Institutional Accrediting Commissions

MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS –
- Commission on Higher Education: *Candidate for Accreditation*
- Commission on Secondary Schools: *Candidate for Accreditation*

NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS –
- Commission on Institutions of Higher Education: *Candidate for Accreditation*
- Commission on Schools: *Candidate for Accreditation*

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES –
- Commission on Colleges: *Candidate for Accreditation*

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS –
- Commission on Colleges: *Candidate for Accreditation*
- Commission on Occupational Education Institutions: *Candidate for Accreditation*

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES –
- Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges: *Candidate for Accreditation*
- Accrediting Commission for Schools: *Candidate for Accreditation*
- Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities: *Candidate for Accreditation*

National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Bodies

ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- Accrediting Commission: *Preaccreditation Status*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BIBLE COLLEGES –
- Commission on Accrediting: *Candidate for Accreditation*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS –
- Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs/Schools: *Preaccreditation*

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION – *Candidate, Precandidate*

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION –
- Commission on Dental Accreditation: *Accreditation Eligible*

AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION –
- Council on Optometric Education: *Reasonable Assurance, Preliminary Approval* (for professional degree programs); *Candidacy Pending* (for optometric residency programs in facilities of the Veterans' Administration)

AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION –
Bureau of Professional Education: *Preaccreditation Status, Provisional Accreditation*

AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION –
Commission on Accreditation in Education: *Candidate for Accreditation*

AMERICAN PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION –
Council on Podiatric Medical Education: *Reasonable Assurance*

AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION –
Council on Education: *Reasonable Assurance of Accreditation*

ASSOCIATION OF ADVANCED RABBINICAL AND TALMUDIC SCHOOLS –
Accreditation Commission: *Correspondent, Candidate*

ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION, INC. –
Accreditation Committee: *Candidacy for Accredited Membership*

ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA –
Commission on Accrediting: *Candidate for Accredited Membership*

CAREER COLLEGE ASSOCIATION –
Accrediting Commission for Independent Colleges and Schools: *Recognized Candidate for Junior College Accreditation, Recognized Candidate for Senior College Accreditation (applies to institutions already holding accredited status)*

COUNCIL ON CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION –
Commission on Accreditation: *Recognized Candidate for Accreditation*

COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH –
Preaccreditation

COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION –
Recognized Candidate for Accreditation

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION –
Commission on Accreditation: *Candidacy*

LIAISON COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION –
Reasonable Assurance, Provisional Accreditation

STRAIGHT CHIROPRACTIC ACADEMIC STANDARDS ASSOCIATION, INC. –
Commission on Accreditation: *Candidate for Accreditation*

THE RECOGNITION PROCESS

Petition Format

Accrediting agencies desiring to be listed by the Secretary of Education must petition for such listing, demonstrating their compliance with the Criteria for Secretarial Recognition (34 CFR Part 602). A petition for initial recognition or renewal of recognition should consist of a narrative statement, organized on a criterion-by-criterion basis, showing how the agency complies with the Criteria for Secretarial Recognition. The narrative statement should be accompanied by clearly referenced supportive documentation, including the agency's accreditation standards and procedures, a recent externally audited financial statement, published lists of accredited schools or programs, self-evaluation guidelines, guidance materials for visiting team members, and sample completed self-evaluations and site visit reports.

Submission

The petition plus three copies should be submitted to the Chief, Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch (AAEB), at the address on the inside back cover of this brochure. Bulkier exhibit items, such as self-evaluations or team reports, need not be included with the four copies. To receive consideration, petitions must be submitted at least six months prior to the month in which they are scheduled for review.

Analysis

The petition review process conducted by the Department of Education includes analysis of the petition by professional staff of the Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch and observation of the agency's or association's site visit and decision-making activities by AAEB staff. Staff members may also visit accrediting agency personnel and review the agency's facilities, records and administrative operations. AAEB may also conduct interviews or surveys of other persons, organizations or institutions concerning the applicant agency's accreditation process in order to obtain further information relating to how the agency complies with the Criteria for Secretarial Recognition.

The AAEB prepares a written analysis of the agency's petition. The staff analysis, reports of on-site observations, special survey reports, and other material pertinent to the analysis are included in the agenda material to be reviewed by the National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility. In advance of the National Advisory Committee meeting at which the petition is scheduled to be considered, the AAEB provides the written staff analysis and appendices to the applicant agency and to interested third parties.

Hearing

The National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility meets at least twice a year to review petitions from accrediting agencies. Usually, a petition is assigned to one of two subcommittees of the National Advisory Committee. Each subcommittee member is assigned to serve as an in-depth "reader" concerning one or more petitions. Each member of the Advisory Committee receives every staff analysis and appended materials.

A petitioning agency is invited to make an oral presentation, which is normally heard by the subcommittee to which the petition is assigned. The subcommittee also hears oral presentations from the AAEB and from third parties who request to be heard. Oral presentations concerning highly complex or controversial petitions usually are heard by the full Advisory Committee.

Each subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full Advisory Committee, which adopts final recommendations to be forwarded to the Secretary. The Advisory Committee conducts its business in public. A transcript of the proceedings is taken.

Final Decision

The Secretary of Education makes the final decision regarding recognition or renewal of recognition of an accrediting agency. An agency may be granted initial recognition or renewal of recognition for a period of up to five years, depending upon its degree of compliance with the Criteria for Secretarial Recognition. The action will include a statement of the scope of the agency's recognized activities. The Secretary may also: (1) defer action concerning a petition for initial or renewal of recognition until further study of the petition is accomplished; (2) deny initial recognition; or (3) withdraw recognition; or (4) limit recognition. In each of the last three cases, the Secretary will provide the agency the opportunity to show cause why that action should not be taken.

The Secretary's list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies is published periodically in the *Federal Register* as well as in this brochure. The list includes the scope of recognition of each agency or association.

Extension of Scope

A petition for extension of scope of recognition may be included as an integral part of a petition for renewal of recognition – or it may be submitted separately. If extension of scope is sought prior to the agency's next regularly scheduled review, agency personnel should consult with the AAEB concerning the petition format.

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Inquiries

Inquiries should be directed to the following officials:

- For information about the National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility (NACAIE)

  Executive Director
  National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility
  U.S. Department of Education
  Washington, D.C. 20202
  Telephone (202) 708-5656

- For information about accreditation
- For information about the agency recognition process
- For submission of petitions for recognition of accrediting bodies

  Chief, Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch
  Higher Education Management Services
  Office of Postsecondary Education
  U.S. Department of Education
  Washington, D.C. 20202-5171
  Telephone (202) 708-7417

- For information about the eligibility of degree-granting postsecondary institutions

  Chief, Higher Education Institutional Eligibility Branch
  Division of Eligibility and Certification
  Debt Collection and Management Assistance Service
  Office of Postsecondary Education
  U.S. Department of Education
  Washington, D.C. 20202-5323
  Telephone (202) 708-4913

- For information about the eligibility of non-degree granting vocational schools and programs

  Chief, Occupational/Vocational Eligibility Branch
  Division of Eligibility and Certification
  Debt Collection and Management Assistance Service
  Office of Postsecondary Education
  U.S. Department of Education
  Washington, D.C. 20202-5323
  Telephone (202) 708-4913